Warden Admits Spying for Nazis

PM 6/29/43

Described by Federal officials as one of the most important spies caught here in World War II, Ernest Frederick Lehmitz, 57, an active Staten Island air raid warden, pleaded guilty of espionage before U. S. Commissioner Martin C. Epstein, in Brooklyn, less than 24 hours after being seized. He was held in $50,000 bail for the Grand Jury.

Ernest Lehmitz

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) charged that Lehmitz, a naturalized American of German birth, sent information to the Nazis on troop and convoy movements and arms production.

The FBI said the prisoner, who lived at 123 Oxford Pl., New Brighton, S. I., obtained data while working at a Staten Island restaurant patronized by war workers and service men.

Lehmitz communicated the information to Nazi officials in invisible ink between the lines of seemingly harmless letters to "friends" in neutral countries, the FBI said.